

Remarks

By the foregoing Amendment, claims 20-21, 28, 34, 36, and 37-39 are amended. No new matter is added by this Amendment. Entry of the Amendment, and favorable consideration thereof, is earnestly requested.

Applicant would like to again note that the Examiner's time and assistance in this matter is sincerely appreciated. As discussed with the Examiner via teleconference on January 3, 2007, certain claims have been amended herein.

The Examiner has noted certain informalities in claims 28, 36, 38, and 39. Accordingly, these claims have been amended.

The Examiner has rejected claim 37 under 35 U.S.C. §112, 1st paragraph for failing to comply with the written description requirement. Accordingly, applicant has amended claim 37 such that it does not recite or imply physically measuring the position of a user.

As discussed with the Examiner, independent claims 20, 34, and 37 have been amended to more clearly distinguish the present invention from the cited art. Specifically, Sumanaweera et al., U.S. Patent No. 6, 443,894, does not anticipate or render obvious the invention recited in the independent claims, as amended, because it does not disclose or suggest "*moving an endoscope relative to a real surface*" and

"determining position data indicating the difference between the endoscope view and the view from the second viewing position as the endoscope moves," and then using that data (along with the mapped virtual surface) to render an image representing a view of the real surface from the second viewing position.

Sumanaweera describes a device that collects two different types of ultrasound data and uses that data to construct graphical representations of internal structures. A user is then able to perform "virtual endoscopy", which is probably best described at Column 11, line 66 through Column 12, line 22. Therein, Sumanaweera describes how the image changes as *the user's perspective* changes, which is effected by allowing the user, via an interface, to change his perspective of the three dimensional construct and thereby simulate moving through or around the structure. This is significantly different from the presently claimed invention, which actively corrects for the difference between the endoscope's view and the view from a second position different from the endoscope's view by collecting position data reflecting this difference as the endoscope moves. By continually accomodating for the difference between the view from the second position and the current view of the endoscope as the scope moves, the claimed invention prevents the user from becoming disoriented as the scope is moved around. Sumanaweera discloses no such means of continually accomodating for this difference in order to continually provide properly oriented, real-time images to the user as a scope moves around.

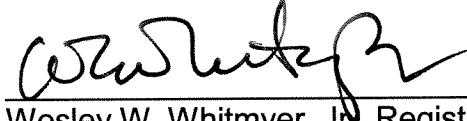
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Dependent claims 21 and 38 have also been amended in light of the amendments to the independent claims.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 20-39, all of the claims remaining in the application, are in order for allowance, and early notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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